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NO. 3330 P. 7

Serial No.: 10/607,252
Docket No.: SO0023 US NA

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REMARKS

As can be seen from above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 (indicated as allowable as discussed below). Claims 2, 4 and 15-17 have been canceled as having been rendered redundant in view of the amendment to claim 1. Claims 9, 10 and 35 have been amended to correct dependency. Claims 29-34 and 37 were previously canceled in conjunction with the restriction requirement of record in this application.

Since these claim amendments add no "new matter" to the application, and since the Applicants believe that these amendment place this application in condition for allowance (as discussed below), the Applicants request that such amendments be entered into the record for further examination of this application.

These amendments are explicitly being made without prejudice of any sort to pursue the canceled claims/subject matter in one or more continuing/divisional applications.

The Applicants again gratefully acknowledge the indication in the aforementioned Final Office Action of the allowability of the subject matter of original claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15-17 and 35-36.

All claims of this application now ultimately depend on the allowed subject matter of original claim 2. Without going to the basis of the rejections of record (or acknowledging the propriety thereof), the Applicants submit that the remaining claims are patentable over the art of record, and that this case is otherwise in condition for allowance.

The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of records, allowance of the claims as currently pending, and advancement of the present application to issue at the earliest possible date.

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Should the Examiner wish to discuss any issues involved in this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone exchange set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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